

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL TURIN

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SUBJ: REACTIONS TO CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVES

1. IN THE WAKE OF THE ACTIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (DC) PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS AND THE DECISIONS OF THE DC DIRECTORATE, THE OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE MADE THEIR ASSESSMENTS OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION. THE GENERAL CONSENSUS IS THAT THE DC DECISION TO ACCEPT THE FORMATION OF A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY INCLUDING THE COMMUNISTS (PCI) ESSENTIALLY SIGNIFIES THE END TO THE POLITICAL ASPECT OF THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS. THE POLITICAL FORCES WILL NOW BE FOCUSING ON THE PROGRAMMATIC SIDE OF THE CRISIS.

2. FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF A MARCH 2 MEETING OF THE PCI DIRECTORATE, SECRETARIAT MEMBER GERARDO CHIAROMONTE READ A STATEMENT WHICH EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT THE DC

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GATHERINGS EARLIER IN THE WEEK HAD CONCLUDED WITH QUOTE A POLITICAL STEP FORWARD END QUOTE. THE STATEMENT ALSO NOTED THAT THE FORCES WITHIN THE DC WHO HAD WISHED TO CREATE A DIRECT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE PCI AND THE DC HAD GIVEN BATTLE AND BEEN DEFEATED. TURNING TO THE PROGRAMMATIC ASPECTS OF THE DC POSITION, THE PCI STATEMENT NOTED THAT IN MANY PARTS IT APPEARS VAGUE AND CONTRADICTORY AND

IN OTHERS IT IS QUOTE UNACCEPTABLE END QUOTE. CHIAROMONTE'S STATEMENT EXPRESSED SPECIAL PCI CONCERN OVER THE FACT THAT THE DC HAD NOT INCLUDED ANY REFERENCE TO INCLUSION IN THE PROGRAM OF ACTIONS DESIGNED TO AVOID CERTAIN REFERENDA THIS SPRING, PARTICULARLY THE ONE RELATED TO THE SO-CALLED REALE LAW. THE PCI ALSO OBSERVED THAT NEW ELEMENTS (UNDIDENTIFIED) MUST BE INTRODUCED INTO THE POLITICAL ACCORD INVOLVING THE STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT. FURTHER INDICATIONS OF THE PCI POSITION WILL POSSIBLY EMERGE FROM A SPEECH BERLINGUER IS EXPECTED TO DELIVER IN NAPLES MARCH 5 AT A PCI WORKERS CONFERENCE.

3. AMONG THE LAY PARTIES THE DC DECISIONS WERE GREETED WITH A CERTAIN SENSE OF RELIEF GIVEN THE FACT THAT THEY RENDER LESS LIKELY, AT THIS STAGE, THE POSSIBLE RECOURSE TO EARLY NATIONAL ELECTIONS. AT A MEETING OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY SECRETARIAT MARCH 2, PARTY SECRETARY CRAXI EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS APPEARED TO HAVE REJECTED A CONFRONTATION APPROACH IN FAVOR OF REACHING A GENERAL POLITICAL ACCORD. HE SAID QUOTE IT SEEMS TO ME THAT ONE CAN BE A LITTLE MORE OPTIMISTIC EVEN THOUGH OBSTACLES AND DIFFICULTIES REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED END QUOTE. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY SECRETARY ROMITA STATED HIS RELIEF THAT THE CRISIS APPEARED ON ITS WAY TO A CONCLUSION WHILE VOICING ANNOYANCE THAT SO MUCH TIME HAS BEEN WASTED IN GETTING THERE. THE REPUBLICAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTY REACTION WAS MORE CRITICAL. WHILE WELCOMING THE APPARENT RESOLUTION OF THE CRISIS, PARTY PRESIDENT LA MALFA TOLD CORRIERE DELLA SERA THAT ANDREOTTI'S PROGRAM LOOKS AT THIS POINT SO DEFICIENT THAT HIS PARTY MIGHT ABSTAIN IN THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFIRMATION VOTE. THE LIBERALS SEEM SOMEWHAT SATISFIED WITH THE LATEST TURN OF EVENTS SINCE IT OFFERS THEM THE CHANCE TO CAPITALIZE POLITICALLY BY MOVING INTO OPPOSITION TO THE QUOTE NEW MAJORITY END QUOTE WHICH IS EMERGING.

4. ANDREOTTI WILL MAKE HIS NEXT MOVE TOWARD RESOLVING THE CRISIS ON MARCH 4 WHEN HE HAS A JOINT MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SIX PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS. ANDREOTTI IS EXPECTED TO TABLE A REVISED DRAFT PROGRAM FOR DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING. SOME OBSERVERS ARE PREDICTING THAT ANDREOTTI WILL BE PREPARED TO INFORM PRESIDENT LEONE OF HIS ABILITY TO PROCEED TO FORM A GOVERNMENT AS EARLY AS THE END OF NEXT WEEK. OTHERS ARE PREDICTING THAT HE WILL AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE FRENCH ELECTIONS. HOLMES

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